

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A sealing structure for a fishing reel having a reel unit, a spool shaft rotatively fitted in the reel unit, and a spool supported rotatively on the spool shaft, said sealing structure comprising:

a first member non-rotatably mounted on the spool shaft ~~having a spindle-formed portion;~~

a second member non-rotatably attached to the spool and having an inner peripheral surface disposed about an outer peripheral surface of said first member ~~spindle-formed portion~~, said second member being rotatable relative to said first member, said inner peripheral surface having a small-diameter contact face and a large-diameter relief face, said smaller-diameter contact face being closer to the spool than said large-diameter relief face is; and

a seal member for sealing a clearance between ~~said spindle-formed portion of~~ said first member and said second member, and having

a cylindrical portion made of an elastic substance and mountable on said ~~spindle-formed portion of~~ said first member, and

a sealing portion formed integrally on an outer circumferential surface of said cylindrical portion and tapering toward said inner peripheral surface of said second member such that a distal edge of said sealing portion can contact said small-diameter contact face of said second member.

2. (Currently Amended) The sealing structure for a fishing reel set forth in claim 1, wherein

said ~~spindle-formed portion of~~ said first member has an annular groove formed in said outer circumferential surface opposing said second member, and

said cylindrical portion is fitted into said annular groove.

3. (Currently Amended) The sealing structure for a fishing reel set forth in claim 1, wherein

said sealing portion includes a lip portion that can contact said small-diameter contact face of said second member, ~~said lip portion extending outward from and being inclined relative to said spindle formed portion of said first member.~~

4. (Original) The sealing structure for a fishing reel set forth in claim 1, wherein: the fishing reel is a lever-drag-type dual-bearing reel having a lever-drag mechanism and a line-winding spool,

said first member is a stationary component of the lever-drag mechanism in the fishing reel, said stationary component being immovable in an axial direction of the spool; and

said second member is a movable component of the lever-drag mechanism, said movable component being rotatable relative to said first member and shiftable in the axial direction of the spool.

5. (Original) The sealing structure for a fishing reel set forth in claim 4, wherein said first member is a drag disk capable of braking the spool, and rotates linked to a spool shaft passing through a center of the spool, and

said second member is a cover member for covering said drag disk, and rotates linked to the spool and meanwhile shifts in the axial direction together with the spool and the spool shaft.

6. (Currently Amended) The sealing structure for a fishing reel set forth in claim 5, wherein

said drag disk has a boss portion passing centrally through said cover member,

said seal member is fitted to said boss portion, and

~~said cover member has a contact face and a relief face formed on said inner peripheral surface thereof,~~ said contact face and said relief face are being arranged next to each other in the axial direction of the spool, ~~said seal member being able to contact said contact face but not being able to contact said relief face.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The sealing structure for a fishing reel set forth in claim 5 ~~[[6]]~~, wherein

said sealing portion of said sealing member parts away from said contact face of said cover member and opposes said relief face when said drag disk in its brake-release state parts away from the spool; and comes into contact with said contact face when said drag disk in its braking state contacts the spool.

8. (Original) The sealing structure for a fishing reel set forth in claim 4, wherein the spool has a bobbin-trunk portion and flange portions arranged on either end of said bobbin-trunk portion, and  
a size of said sealing portion in its outer diameter is 8% or more and 50% or less of an outer diameter of said flange portions.

9-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A fishing reel, comprising:  
a reel unit ~~having a master gear shaft~~;  
a spool shaft rotatively fitted in a central portion of said reel unit;  
a spool carried rotatively ~~yet axially immovably~~ on said spool shaft;  
a handle disposed sideways on said reel unit;  
a first member ~~having a spindle formed portion~~ non-rotatably coupled to one of said spool shaft and said master gear shaft of said fishing reel;  
a second member non-rotatably attached to the spool and having an inner peripheral surface disposed about an outer peripheral surface of ~~said spindle formed portion of said first member~~, said second member being rotatable relative to said first member, said inner peripheral surface having a small-diameter contact face and a large-diameter relief face, said smaller-diameter contact face being closer to the spool than said large-diameter relief face is;  
and  
a seal member for sealing a clearance between said ~~spindle formed portion of~~ first member and said second member, and having  
a cylindrical portion made of an elastic substance and mountable on said ~~spindle formed portion of~~ said first member, and  
a sealing portion formed integrally on an outer circumferential surface of said cylindrical portion and tapering toward said inner peripheral surface of said second member such that a distal edge of said sealing portion can contact said small-diameter contact face of said second member.

12. (Currently Amended) The fishing reel set forth in claim 11, wherein said ~~spindle-formed portion of said~~ first member has an annular groove formed in said outer circumferential surface opposing said second member, and said cylindrical portion is fitted into said annular groove.

13. (Currently Amended) The fishing reel set forth in claim 11, wherein said sealing portion includes a lip portion that contacts said small-diameter contact face of said second member, ~~said lip portion extending outward from and being inclined relative to said spindle-formed portion of said first member.~~

14. (Original) The fishing reel set forth in claim 11, wherein:  
said fishing reel is a lever-drag type dual-bearing reel having a lever-drag mechanism, said first member is a stationary component of said lever-drag mechanism, said stationary component being immovable in an axial direction of said spool; and  
said second member is a movable component of the lever-drag mechanism, said movable component being rotatable relative to said first member and shiftable in the axial direction of said spool.

15. (Original) The fishing reel set forth in claim 14, wherein:  
said first member is a drag disk capable of braking said spool, and rotates linked to said spool shaft passing through a center of said spool; and  
said second member is a cover member for covering said drag disk, and rotates linked to said spool and meanwhile shifts in the axial direction of said spool together with said spool and said spool shaft.

16. (Currently Amended) The fishing reel set forth in claim 15, wherein:  
said drag disk has a boss portion passing centrally through said cover member;  
said seal member is fitted to said boss portion; and  
~~said cover member has a contact face and a relief face formed on said inner peripheral surface thereof,~~ said contact face and said relief face are being arranged next to each other in the axial direction of the spool, ~~said seal member being able to contact said contact face but not being able to contact said relief face.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The fishing reel set forth in claim 15 ~~[[16]]~~, wherein said sealing portion of said sealing member parts away from said contact face of said cover member and opposes said relief face when said drag disk in its brake-release state parts away from said spool; and comes into contact with said contact face when said drag disk in its braking state contacts said spool.

18. (Original) The fishing reel set forth in claim 14, wherein:  
said spool has a bobbin-trunk portion and flange portions arranged on either end of said bobbin-trunk portion; and  
a size of said sealing portion in outer diameter is 8% or more and 50% or less of an outer diameter of said flange portions.

19. (Canceled).